



ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

<https://www.apaac.az.gov>

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CONTACT: Elizabeth Burton Ortiz
602-542-7222

APAAC Annual Prosecutor Awards

The Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC) recognized outstanding prosecutors during its Annual Prosecutor Conference on June 24, 2021. Attendees of the virtual award ceremony enjoyed a keynote address by Coconino County Attorney William Ring entitled *Between Charging & Charged: The Humble Power of the Prosecutor*.

APAAC's mission is "*Empowering prosecutors through training and advocacy to serve as Ministers of Justice, as we strive to build criminal justice bridges with the greater community.*"

Felony Prosecutor of the Year Large Jurisdiction

The Felony Prosecutor of the Year Award, Large Jurisdiction, is designed to recognize the extraordinary achievement of an Arizona Felony Prosecutor in a large jurisdiction office.

Assistant Arizona Attorney General Rebecca Jones was honored as the 2021 APAAC Felony Prosecutor of the Year, Large Jurisdiction, for her outstanding work in the Drug and Racketeering Enforcement Section. In 2020, one of Ms. Jones' cases resulted in the indictment of 21 individuals, the prevention of multiple planned robberies and the seizure of 49.43 pounds of heroin, 180.9 pounds of methamphetamine, 3.05 pounds of cocaine, 228,596 fentanyl pills, 1.9 pound of fentanyl power and \$255,671 bulk U.S. currency.

Felony Prosecutor of the Year Small Jurisdiction

The Felony Prosecutor of the Year Award, Small Jurisdiction, is designed to recognize the extraordinary achievement of an Arizona Felony Prosecutor in a small jurisdiction office.

Deputy Mohave County Attorney Jacob Cote was recognized as the 2021 APAAC Felony Prosecutor of the Year, Small Jurisdiction, for his work on a child molestation case involving trial and dual county jurisdiction. Mr. Cote overcame the many challenges of the case to ensure justice had its day in court.

Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year

The Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year Award is designed to recognize the extraordinary achievement of an Arizona Misdemeanor Prosecutor. This award may be given to a Misdemeanor Prosecutor for one specific case or for a series of outstanding prosecutorial accomplishments in the past year which demonstrate the Prosecutor's exceptional advocacy.

Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor Lori Van Haren was named the 2021 APAAC Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year in recognition of her resolute dedication to improving the lives of veterans, and her tireless work helping make Phoenix neighborhoods safer.

Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year

The Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year Award is designed to recognize the extraordinary achievement of an Arizona Juvenile Prosecutor. This award may be given to a Juvenile Prosecutor for one specific case or for a series of outstanding prosecutorial accomplishments in the past year which demonstrate the Prosecutor's exceptional advocacy.

Deputy Yavapai County Attorney Danalyn Savage was honored as the 2021 APAAC Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year. Ms. Savage was specifically recognized for her work on a case which resulted in a very large financial loss to the victim and involved extensive litigation regarding the ensuing restitution.

Prosecutor Rising Star

The Rising Star Award is designed to recognize a Rising Star Prosecutor, who is a Prosecutor with a maximum of three years prosecution experience and who has demonstrated a passion for seeking justice, an outstanding work ethic, and exceptional raw legal skill. This award may be given to a Rising Star Prosecutor for one specific case or for a series of outstanding prosecutorial accomplishments in the past year which demonstrate the Prosecutor is a rising star.

Deputy Graham County Attorney Gareth Kartchner was recognized as the 2021 APAAC Prosecutor Rising Star for his work to end the fentanyl trade in Graham County. Despite only being an attorney for a little over a year, Mr. Kartchner has masterfully represented the State in numerous suppression hearings, bench trials and jury trials, the results of which have positively impacted his community.

Appellate Prosecutor of the Year

The Appellate Prosecutor of the Year Award is designed to recognize an outstanding Arizona Appellate Prosecutor whose work has significantly contributed to the mission of serving victims and seeking justice. This award may be given for one specific appellate case or for a series of outstanding prosecutorial accomplishments in the past year.

Deputy Maricopa County Attorney Julie Done was named the APAAC 2021 Appellate Prosecutor of the Year for her work on countless special actions, responses, petitions for review, and *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of the State of Arizona. Ms. Done's contributions have impacted justice for victims statewide.

David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy

The David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award was established in 2003 as a tribute to the late deputy county attorney, David R. White, who served as a career prosecutor in Pima County. David devoted his time and extraordinary talent to serving and protecting the public safety and was a strong and effective voice for victims. This award is designed to recognize an Arizona Prosecutor who has demonstrated and provided exceptional support and service on behalf of crime victims. This award may be given for one specific act or the culmination of many things over the past year which demonstrate the Prosecutor's sustained service and exceptional advocacy on behalf of crime victims.

Deputy Cochise County Attorneys Terisha Driggs and Michael Powell were the recipients of the 2021 APAAC David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award for their work on a child molestation case which needed to be retried due to the identity of a juror being published during the first trial. Despite the challenging circumstances, Ms. Driggs and Mr. Powell built a positive working relationship with the victim and their representatives by treating them with thoughtfulness and compassion.

Gerda and Kurt Klein Guardian of Freedom Award

The Gerda and Kurt Klein Guardian of Freedom Award is a tribute to Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein and her husband Kurt Klein. Gerda and Kurt dedicated their lives to the lessons from the Holocaust and recognized prosecution professionals as guardians of freedom. They understand that prosecution professionals are the living embodiment of the United States Constitution and are often times the last line of defense for the rights of both victims and the accused. This award recognizes an Arizona prosecutor who has demonstrated exceptional professionalism in ethical decision-making in the pursuit of justice. This award is not meant to award tough trial victories, but victories of conscience. It is awarded to the prosecutor who lives up to Gerda and Kurt's ideals, and who makes the right decision, regardless of the effect to the outcome of a case.

Assistant Oro Valley Town Prosecutor Troy Simon was honored with the 2021 APAAC Gerda and Kurt Klein Guardian Award for his untiring work on a complex misdemeanor case which included a twenty-one day Zoom trial spanning over eight months, DNA tests, 160 exhibits, jail calls, and massive depositions. Undaunted, Mr. Simon never wavered in his dedication to doing the right thing.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to recognize an individual who has had a distinguished career as a public Prosecutor, making significant contributions to the protection of public safety and the administration of justice, and whose career exemplifies the highest standards of dedication and commitment to the profession.

Deputy Maricopa County Attorney Michael Baker was honored with an APAAC 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his career, Mr. Baker worked across Arizona as a prosecutor in a variety of capacities including trial attorney, mentor, charging and grand jury attorney, assistant bureau chief and bureau chief. Mr. Baker is known for his encyclopedic knowledge of case law and his passion for seeking justice.